

Message Text

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FOR HARTMAN FROM BEIGEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, SNAR

SUBJECT: EUR REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE

1. ABOUT EIGHTY PERSONS PARTICIPATED IN TWO-DAY CONFERENCE WHICH REVIEWED U.S. DEMAND AND SUPPLY VIA EUROPE OF ILLEGAL NARCOTICS, ROLE OF EMBASSY COORDINATORS AND RELATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES, EMBASSIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. HERE ARE THE MAIN POINTS EMERGING FROM THE CONFERENCE. LOWENSTEIN WILL GIVE YOU HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE UPON HIS RETURN FROM BRUSSELS.

2. THE DOMESTIC COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE INDICATED THAT THE FORTHCOMING WHITE PAPER ON DRUG ABUSE WILL EMPHASIZE AN INTENSIFIED FEDERAL EFFORT WITH SOME REORIENTATION IN DEALING WITH THE RENEWED INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF DRUG ABUSE IN THE U.S. WHILE NEW PRESSURES WILL FOCUS ON MEXICO, WHICH HAS AGAIN EMERGED AS THE PRINCIPAL HEROIN SOURCE FOR THE U.S. (AS IT WAS DURING WORLD WAR II) IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE TO INTERDICT ILLEGAL DRUG SUPPLIES ORIGINATING IN EUROPE OR TRANSITING EUROPEAN EN ROUTE TO THE U.S. AND CANADE.

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3. WE MUST FIND NEW WAYS TO ASSURE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES

WILL DEFINE THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM AS THEIR OWN (FOR EMAMPLE, NETHERLANDS AND MEXICO) SINCE THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ADDICTION IS GROWING, REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, AS PSYCHOACTIVE DRUGS BECOME INCREASINGLY AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY IN WESTERN EUROPE. MOST OF THE HEROIN COMING INTO EUROPE NOW FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA, LARGELY BY SMUGGLING THROUGH AMSTERDAM, IS BEING CONSUMED IN EUROPE AND IS NOT YET A THREAT TO THE U.S. IN THE DRUG ABUSE AND TREATMENT AREA, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR DRUG ABUSE WILL HOLD A CONFERENCE WITH THE DUTCH IN WASHINGTON NEXT JANUARY IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS ON THEM THE NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR GROWING ADDICT POPULATION.

4. THE TURKS HAVE ESTABLISHED AN EFFECTIVE CONTROL SYSTEM FOR POPPY PRODUCTION USING THE UNINCISED STRAW PROCESS, AND IF THIS EVIDENT SUCCESS CONTINUES THE WESTERN EUROPEAN SUPPLY OF HEROIN TO THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE TO DIMINISH. DEA HAS NONETHELESS PREPARED FOR ANY TURKISH THREAT BY UPGRADING ITS STAFF IN EUROPE AND STRENGTHENING ITS INTERNATIONAL DRUG ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS. THE UN CONTROL BOARD SECRETARY SAYS THE UN TEAMS IN TURKEY HAVE FOUND NO CASES SO FAR OF ANY LEAKAGE UNDER THE STRAW PROCESS. (DEA CONSIDERS ANYTHING UP TO TEN PERCENT DIVERSION TO BE POSSIBLE UNDER ANY CONTROL SYSTEM AND WOULD NOT REGARD ANYTHING UP TO THAT LEVEL AS SUBSTANTIAL.)

THE EMBASSY TEAM FROM ANKARA REPORTED THAT NUMEROUS VISITS BY OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS, BOTH TURKISH AND FOREIGN, TO THE POPPY-GROWING AREAS DID NOT DISCOVER A SINGLE INSTANCE OF PLANT INCISION AND NO EVIDENCE OF DIVERSION FROM THE CURRENT HARVEST WHICH WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE BEGINNING OF OCTOBER. THEY ALSO POINTED OUT THAT CONTINUED TURKISH COOPERATION WITH DEA, AND INDEED THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF DEA IN TURKEY, COULD BE TERMINATED IF THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO CONTINUES.

5. U.S. FUNDING IN THE EUROPEAN AREA IS CONCENTRATED
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ON TRAINING AT VARIOUS LEVELS, BY THE CUSTOMS SERVICE FOR BORDER CONTROL PERSONNEL AND BY DEA FOR ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF DRUG INTELLIGENCE AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. A LONG-RANGE OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ENHANCE IN-COUNTRY TRAINING CAPABILITIES IN EUROPE, ON A NATIONAL OR REGIONAL BASIS, AND WHERE POSSIBLE TO INTERNATIONALIZE THE TRAINING EFFORT. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE TRAINING PROGRAMS SERVE TO STIMULATE EUROPEAN OFFICIAL INTEREST

IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND ANY PHASING OUT OF THIS ACTIVITY BY THE U.S. SHOULD PRUDENTLY TAKE THIS FACTOR INTO CONSIDERATION IN OUR SELF-INTEREST. NEW EMPHASIS IS ALSO BEING GIVEN BY DEA TO FOLLOW UP WITH EUROPEANS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ALREADY HAD U.S. TRAINING, TO INSURE LONG-RUN BENEFITS FROM OUR INVESTMENT, TO SHARE NEW EXPERIENCES AND INFORMATION, AND TO PROMOTE INTRA-EUROPEAN COOPERATION AMONG ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.

6. SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL BE TAKEN BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT ARE: (A) THE SECRETARY'S UN SPEECH MIGHT INCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL FROM THE FORTHCOMING WHITE PAPER, TO INDICATE THE REINVIGORATED U.S. RESPONSE TO THE UNIVERSAL DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM; (B) NEED TO SEEK MORE FOREIGN RESOURCES FOR THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL TO WHICH U.S. HAS CONTRIBUTED THREE-FOURTHS OF THE 20 MILLION DOLLARS COLLECTED TO DATE (AND TO WHICH 21 OUT OF 30 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED) (C) IMPORTANCE FOR U.S. AND OTHERS TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON PSYCHOTROPIC DRUGS IN ORDER TO DEAL MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN AMPHETAMINES AND THEIR GROWING THREAT TO THE U.S.
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